AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 23, and insert the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention described hereinafter ~~thus~~ resides in the fact that the blocks 4 extending over the width of the mould consist in the lateral direction of several parts, referred to hereinafter as block elements 5, which are positioned within frames 7 made of magnetizable material and are held therein in such a way that they are able to freely undergo deformation on the occurrence of temperature changes~~,~~. ~~and that~~ ~~the~~The joined blocks 4 are lodged, as units, on transport means in the form of chains 20 (Fig. 2) preferably provided with chain sprockets 10 (Fig. 15) and circulating on endless paths around their respective machine bodies, stationary magnets, preferably magnetic rails 12 (Fig. 1 and 5) being disposed between the tracks 11 (Fig. 1) of the chains 20 (Figs. 2 and 3) and the bottom surface of the casting caterpillars 2;3, and stationary magnetic bows 13 (Fig. 1) being disposed on the entry side and on the exit side 19a;19b (Fig. 2) of the mould, by which the frames 7 carrying the block elements 5 are drawn onto the tracks 11 using the chains and are guided on them in such a way that the frames 7 slide over the stationary magnetic rails 12 and magnetic bows 13 without contacting them~~,~~. ~~several~~Several chains 20 ~~being~~are possibly arranged over the width of the mould, the mutual distance of which is such that any undue bending of the frames 7 placed on said chains 20 and thus of the composite blocks 4 extending over the width of the mould is avoided, so that due to the low degree of deformation of the relatively small block elements 4 and to their definite, invariable position within the frames 7,

practically even mould walls are achieved in spite of the temperature changes occurring during the passage through the mould, disregarding the length and the width thereof~~,~~. ~~the~~The blocks 4 in the region of the top surface of the machine bodies 2;3 are lying free on the chains 20 so that, in case of an exchange of blocks, they can be removed and replaced easily by simply being lifted off by means of a hoisting equipment provided with a suitable gripper, without any necessity to spend additional time and work on detaching and refastening the blocks 4.

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 13:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 18:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 30:

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of a portion of a casting machine showing a method of exchanging blocks.

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 30:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 5:

Fig. 16 schematically illustrates the method of exchanging the blocks 4 of the casting machine 1. The blocks 4 in the region of the top surface of the machine bodies 2;3 lie free on the chains 20 so that, in case of an exchange of blocks, they can be removed and replaced easily by simply being lifted off by means of hoisting equipment provided with a suitable gripper, without any necessity to spend additional time and work on detaching and refastening the blocks 4. A plate 33 comprising two suspension rings 36 for being suspended on hoisting equipment (not shown) is provided on its bottom surface with sealings 37 which are connected to a vacuum tube 38. The vacuum tube 38 is connected to a vacuum system (not shown). The plate 33 is let down on the blocks 4 to be exchanged, whereupon the vacuum system is activated so that the blocks 4 are aspirated by the plate 33 and can thus be replaced in a small fraction of the expenditure in time and labor which has so far been necessary for this operation.